

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 PM-05 H-01 /069 W

-----108983 210427Z /63

R 202000Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1851

INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 5152

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, MILI, UY

SUBJECT: PARAGUAYAN PRESS REPORTS OF THE MCAULIFFE SAGA

REF MONTEVIDEO 5737 AND PREVIOUS

1. ASUNCION DAILY NEWSPAPERS HAVE PUBLISHED UPI AND EFE DISPATCHES ON THE MCAULIFFE SAGA IN THE PAST WEEK REPORTING THE INCIDENT AS A "NEW REVERSE AND FREEZING IN US-URUGUAYAN BILATERAL RELATIONS."

2. THE PARAGUAYAN PRESS ACCOUNTS QUOTED EXTENSIVELY FROM PRO-GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPERS EL PAIS, LA MANANA, AND MUNDO COLOR DESCRIBING MCAULIFFE'S REMARKS AS "AN INTNET BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INSUENCE THE URUGUAYAN MILITARY TO FOLLOW POLICIES ESPOUSED BY THE US MILITARY CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS."

3. THE NEWS REPORTS ALSO INCLUDED THE STATEMENTS OF URUGUAYAN ARMY CDNC VADORA AND AIR FORCE CINC PALADINI WHICH REFUTED THE PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS DISTORTIONS OF GENERAL MCAULIFFE'S STATEMENTS.

4. AS WELL, AN EXPLANATION OF THE INCIDENT BY THE US EMBASSY IN URUGUAY WAS REPORTED AS FOLLOWS: "THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IN MONTEVIDEO, THROUGH ITS OFFICIALS, UNDERSTOOD THAT  
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THE WORDS OF THE COMMANDER OF THE FORCES OF HIS COUNTRY IN SOUTH AMERICA WERE INNOCUOUS (INOCENTADAS) IN THAT HE ONLY READ A SPEECH BEFORE THE AUTHORITIES OF FOUR PARAGRAPHS." THE USE OF THE WORD "INOCENTADA" CARRIES A NEGATIVE CONNOTATION AND SEEMS TO BE A DELIBERATE PLAY ON WORDS DESIGNED TO EMBARRASS THE US EMBASSY. "INOCENTADA" CAN BE TRANSLATED AS: SIMPLE, SILLY SPEECH OR ACTIONS, OR INNOCUOUS WITHOUT CONTENT.

5. EMBASSY IS INFORMALLY PASSING THE COMPLETE TEXT OF  
MCAULIFFE'S REMARKS IN SPANISH TO KEY PARAGUAYAN MILITARY  
OFFICERS TO CLEAR UP THE DISTORED REPORTS OF THIS INCIDENT.  
WHITE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009